

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Walter McNutt, on March 16, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)  
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)  
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch  
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 51, 3/13/2007; SB 103,  
3/13/2007; SB 293, 3/13/2007  
Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON SB 51**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:10 Sen. Bob Hawks (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 51,  
Revise land use laws concerning fire and wildland fire.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:09 Michael Kakuk, Montana Association of Realtors

**EXHIBIT(nah56a01)**

00:16:04 Scott Waldron, Montana Fire Chiefs & Fire Wardens  
Committee

00:17:35 Mary Sexton, Department of Natural Resources and  
Conservation (DNRC)

00:24:09 Dustin Stewart, Montana Building Industries'  
Association

**EXHIBIT(nah56a02)**

00:25:34 Tim Davis, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

00:28:35 Molly Immen, Montana Audubon

00:29:28 Everett Stiger, Retired Forest Service Worker

00:31:53 Myra Shults, Land Use Consultant; and for  
Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

00:34:06 Robert Drake, Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Department,  
Helena, Montana

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:35:18 Linda Stoll, Missoula County

00:43:17 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association

**Informational Testimony:**

00:46:39 Dave Cook, Department of Labor and Industry

00:47:03 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:47:24 Rep. Lambert

00:50:25 Mr. Kakuk

00:50:46 Ms. Sexton

00:52:58 Rep. Dickenson

00:53:17 Bob Harrington, DNRC

00:59:00 Rep. Erickson

01:01:28 Mr. Kakuk

01:05:50 Rep. Ross

01:06:03 Ms. Sexton

01:07:34 Mr. Harrington

01:08:09 Rep. Ross

01:08:19 Mr. Harrington  
01:08:56 Rep. Ross  
01:09:15 Mr. Kakuk  
01:09:22 Rep. Heinert  
01:09:44 Sen. Hawks  
01:10:44 Rep. Pomnichowski  
01:11:20 Sen. Hawks  
01:12:03 Mr. Davis  
01:12:35 Rep. Pomnichowski  
01:13:10 Mr. Harrington  
01:14:57 Mr. Cook  
01:15:31 Rep. Pomnichowski  
01:16:23 Ms. Shults  
01:18:33 Mr. Kakuk  
01:20:09 Rep. Mendenhall  
01:22:27 Mr. Kakuk  
01:23:25 Rep. Hendrick  
01:23:53 Mr. Kakuk  
01:25:48 Rep. Lambert  
01:26:56 Mr. Harrington

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:27:43 Sen. Hawks

**HEARING ON SB 293**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:30:38 Sen. Rick Laible (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 293, Establish state forest management policy.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:34:21 Bob Harrington, Montana State Forester, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
01:41:09 Molly Immen, Montana Audubon  
01:41:36 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association  
01:43:30 Peter Kolb, Society of American Foresters; and for Montana Forest Owners' Association  
01:49:08 Ellen Engstedt, Montana Wood Products Association; and for Gordon Sanders, Pyramid Mountain Lumber Company, Seeley Lake, Montana  
01:51:22 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:52:41 Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner

**Informational Testimony:**

01:57:46 Jerry Meyer, Forest Service Liaison

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:59:36 Rep. Cohenour  
01:59:59 Mr. Harrington  
02:00:48 Rep. Cohenour  
02:01:06 Krista Evans  
02:01:40 Rep. Lambert  
02:02:09 Sen. Laible  
02:02:58 Rep. Erickson  
02:04:14 Mr. Harrington  
02:05:45 Sen. Laible  
02:05:59 Rep. Vincent  
02:06:49 Mr. Harrington  
02:08:20 Jerry Meyer  
02:08:37 Rep. Barrett  
02:09:19 Mr. Harrington  
02:10:31 Rep. Barrett  
02:14:49 Sen. Laible  
02:16:15 Mr. Harrington  
02:16:46 Mr. Meyer  
02:17:49 Rep. Ross  
02:18:50 Mr. Harrington  
02:20:15 Rep. Cohenour  
02:20:49 Mr. McGinley

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:21:30 Sen. Laible

02:23:17 Break

**HEARING ON SB 103**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:44:04 Sen. Greg Lind (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 103, Revise local government fire protection laws.

**[EXHIBIT \(nah56a03\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:48:47 Brett Waters, Central Valley Fire District, Belgrade-Bozeman Area

**[EXHIBIT \(nah56a04\)](#)**

02:52:43 Scott Waldron, Montana Fire Chiefs' Association

02:53:50 Jerry Shepherd, Fire Chief, West Valley Volunteer Fire  
Department, Helena, Montana  
02:54:20 John Semple, Fire Alliance; and for Doug Neal, Montana  
State Fireman's Assoc and Montana State Council of  
Professional Firefighters  
02:54:57 Cheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:55:56 Rep. Hendrick  
02:56:43 Mr. Waldron  
02:57:57 Rep. Hands  
02:59:02 Mr. Waldron  
03:00:07 Rep. McNutt

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:00:35 Sen. Lind

**Additional Exhibits:**

Document pertaining to SB 51; Hearing 03/16/07

**[EXHIBIT\(nah56a05\)](#)**

Document pertaining to HB 753; Hearing 03/09/07

**[EXHIBIT\(nah56a06\)](#)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

03:02:33 Adjournment: 6:10 P.M.

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REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

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NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([nah56aad.pdf](#))**